

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the title as follows: "SMALL OPENING BEVERAGE CAN END CLOSURE ADAPTED FOR FRictional ENGAGEMENT WITH RECEIVING A STRAW"

Please replace the paragraph in the detailed description beginning at page 7, line 3, with the following:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of one embodiment of a small opening beverage can end 2. The beverage can end 2 is generally comprised of a circular end wall 24 which is interconnected to a center panel 4 with a countersink 46 positioned therebetween. The circular end wall 24 is adapted for interconnection to a beverage can body. A pull tab 8 is generally disposed on an upper surface of the center panel 4 and in one embodiment comprises a pull ring 10 interconnected to a pull tab nose 12 which is interconnected to the center panel 4 by means of a rivet 14. To facilitate grasping the pull ring 10, a recessed center panel 34 may be provided which allows a user's fingers to more easily grasp the pull ring 10. In one embodiment, the pull ring is elevated at least about 0.030 inches from the central panel 4 upper surface to facilitate grasping.

Please further replace the paragraph in the detailed description beginning at page 7, line 11, with the following:

Referring now to Figs. 2-4, additional detail is provided with regard to the small opening beverage can end. More specifically, Fig. 2 is a top plan view of one embodiment of the present invention (without the pull tab) and identifying a rupturable score line 16 which defines the small opening 6. Preferably the small opening 6 has a diameter of between about 0.1865 inches to 0.3125 inches, and more preferably no greater than about 0.1503 inches as defined by the rupturable score

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line 16. A smaller diameter small opening would not permit the insertion of a typical drinking straw, while a larger vent opening 6 would not allow the beverage can end 2 to be substantially spill proof when the drinking straw is inserted in the small opening 6. The rivet 14 which interconnects the pull tab 8 to the top of center panel 4 is further seen positioned within the interior of the rupturable score line 16. As further shown in Fig. 3, a recessed center panel 34 may be provided in the center panel 4 which provides additional spacing to allow a user to engage the pull ring 10 during use. Fig. 4 is an enlargement of the small opening 6 and which further defines a reinforcing bead 22 and the substantially circular rivet 14. As appreciated by one skilled in the art, although a rivet is used in this particular application, other types of interconnection apparatus which are commonly known in the beverage industry for interconnecting a pull tab to a center panel may be provided herein.

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Please replace the Abstract with the following:

A beverage can end closure is described is provided herein which has a small opening preferably centrally disposedlocated and which is adapted for receiving a straw. Preferably In one embodiment, the small opening end is opened with a conventional pull tab, but which may establishes a vent area positioned adjacent the small opening end, and which provides sufficient venting during use of the straw. It is further preferred that the pull tab be slightly elevated with rounded corners to provide a smooth, easily accessible pulling surface ring for the user of the beverage can.